

AETC News Clips



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6, 7, 8 + 9 Oct 01

After the bombing, what next?

Observers see more targets, bigger worries

By SIG CHRISTENSON
EXPRESS-NEWS MILITARY WRITER

Last weekend's attacks against the Taliban and terrorist leader Osama bin Laden are part of a complex, long-term effort, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Monday.

A second day of strikes by cruise missiles and warplanes was on the Pentagon's agenda, as was a new round of humanitarian airdrops in Afghanistan.

But as many wondered how long the airstrikes would continue and what would come after them, Rumsfeld also warned that "cruise missiles and bombers are not going to solve this problem."

"What they can do is contribute by adding pressure, making life more difficult, raising the costs for the terrorists and those that are supporting the terrorists, draining their finances and creating an environment that is

"Those states that don't join our anti-terrorist campaign are next on the target list."

DAVID HACKWORTH
retired Army colonel and syndicated columnist

inhospitable to the people who are threatening the world," he told reporters at the Pentagon.

Twenty bombers and fighters carried the war to the Taliban on the second day of America's aerial offensive, along with firings of Tomahawk cruise missiles.

Most observers doubted the attacks could last longer than two weeks because of a dearth of targets in Afghanistan, a country torn during the past two decades by civil war and a lengthy occupation by Soviet troops.

But some, including retired Maj. Gen. Lewis E. Curtis III and the Brookings Institution's Michael O'Hanlon, said that courting Taliban opponents, such as the Northern Alliance, is a crucial factor in the allies'

Afghan strategy.

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, D-San Antonio, hoped there would not be a large U.S. troop presence in Afghanistan. But, he added, there might be no choice if the Northern Alliance fails, terming that outcome a "last resort."

O'Hanlon and Curtis said attacks from the Northern Alliance, a principal foe of the Taliban, could expose enemy ground troops to fire from U.S. planes — something that happened in Kosovo and the Persian Gulf War.

O'Hanlon, a senior fellow at Brookings, said, "You hope you can snatch bin Laden, but you don't count on it."

Curtis, a former commander of Kelly AFB, said the length of the campaign would depend in part on "how much value the target is compared to the value of the bomb."

Rumsfeld compared the fight against terrorism to the Cold War, saying it will "involve many fronts over a period of time," pressure from many governments, as well as overt and covert military action.

"We will not stop until the terrorist networks are destroyed,"

he said. "To that end, regimes that harbor terrorists and their training camps should know that they will suffer penalties."

Retired Army Col. David Hackworth, a syndicated columnist, speculated that America's next target might be Saddam Hussein, followed by Syria and Iran.

Afghanistan is "one phase of a multi-phase operation," he said, adding that he believed that "those states that don't join our anti-terrorist campaign are next on the target list."

O'Hanlon said any attack on Iraq would require a "Desert Storm II" that would lack support from key Arab states.

Former Army Secretary Louis Caldera saw any attack on Iran or Syria as unlikely because of its potential for sparking a wider regional war.

"All of the complexities of this region that existed before Sept. 11 are still there," he said, adding: "It is now even more of a powderkeg than it was before."

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Roddy Stinson's column will resume Oct. 18.

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U.S. air war relies on proven tactics

By SIG CHRISTENSON
EXPRESS-NEWS MILITARY WRITER

Cruise missiles fired from ships and submarines. Fighters launched from aircraft carriers. B-2 bombers flown from bases in the United States.

That was the lethal mix of America's military might unleashed Sunday on Taliban targets in Afghanistan, but it might have been the game plan for Day One of the Kosovo air war only two years ago.

Current and former senior defense leaders agreed the allied attacks were standard operating procedure for a Pentagon with two short-term goals: Destroy the enemy's capacity to wage war from the air and cripple command-and-control systems.

"If you were going to do an air campaign, which seems to be in the offing, this is the way an air campaign starts," said former Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters, the service's top civilian during the Kosovo air war. "So I'm not surprised."

Fighters, bombers and cruise missiles struck Taliban positions, among them airfields and command posts.

Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the strike included 15 bombers from the continental United States, 25 aircraft from carriers and 50 Tomahawk cruise missiles fired from U.S. and British ships and subs.

Striking Taliban planes and air defenses was necessary "to operate in the ground and in the air," Defense Secretary Do-

nald Rumsfeld said. He added that the allies have "targeted command facilities for those forces we know support terrorist elements" in Afghanistan, and vital terrorist sites.

It wasn't clear how long the sorties would continue. An Air Force spokesman echoed the view of others in saying that, while the attacks could continue for some time, "there's no way to predict something like this."

The attacks mirror American strategy during the 78-day Kosovo air campaign in 1999 and the Persian Gulf War a decade ago, when massive air power was brought to bear on enemy airfields, radar sites, communication and power grids, and command-and-control networks.

But the strategy actually goes back decades. America struggled to gain air superiority in World War II and lost it for a time during the Korean War, a failure Peters termed "devastating" to ground troops.

Retired Army Col. David Hackworth, a syndicated columnist, said a variety of special operations troops on the ground helped coordinate Sunday's attacks, using lasers to "paint" targets that were hit with cruise missiles and "smart" bombs.

Often a Pentagon critic in recent years, Hackworth had only praise for the attacks.

"In my view it's just been a totally brilliant operation," he said. "Not good — brilliant so far."

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DATE 8 Oct 01

Americans overwhelmingly back anti-terror war

President's approval rating 92%

BY GARY MARTIN

EXPRESS-NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Americans overwhelmingly rallied behind President Bush and the nation's military as airstrikes continued Monday in retaliation for the deadly attacks last month in New York and Washington.

National opinion polls show nine out of 10 Americans back the U.S.-British reprisals, and approve of the way the president is handling the crisis.

"I didn't vote for him, and I think he has a lot of people behind him doing the brain work, but he's thinking things through pretty well before he does things," said Joyce Ford Flores, day manager at Texas Ice Service on Blanco Road in San Antonio.

Flores said three U.S. flags are draped inside the neighborhood icehouse, and customers are showing their patriotism by decorating their vehicles.

"Everybody has flags on their cars and pickups," Flores said.

While directing the anti-terror

*"We have resolved
ourselves for this fight,
and now must see it
through."*

U.S. REP. MARTIN FROST
D-Dallas

campaign, Bush pleaded with the public to be understanding and patient.

"This will be a long war," Bush said in the East Room at the White House when former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge was sworn in as the new director for the Office of Homeland Security.

"On all efforts, on all fronts, we're going to be ongoing and relentless as we tighten the net of justice," Bush said.

A CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll showed 90 percent of Americans approved of the decision to use military force against Osama bin Laden, his al-Qaida network and the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan.

The poll placed Bush's approval rating at 92 percent.

A Washington Post/ABC News poll showed 94 percent of Americans approved of the strikes, and eight in 10 would support the use of ground troops to kill or capture bin Laden.

"This is a war that we will conduct on several fronts. The good thing is that American people understand that," said Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-San Antonio.

Just three days after the Sept. 11 attacks in New York and Washington, Congress authorized the president to take appropriate military action.

"President Bush rightly stated that our patience will be our strength in the war against terrorism," said Rep. Martin Frost, D-Dallas, the House Democratic Caucus chairman. "We have resolved ourselves for this fight, and now must see it through."

Polls showed that most Americans think the U.S. reprisals will bring future terrorist attacks but believe the risk is far outweighed by the consequences of taking no action at all.

Local law enforcement agencies nationwide were asked to remain on the lookout for suspicious activity.

"We are concerned and certainly aware of what is going on," said Police Chief Kenneth Menn in Balcones Heights, a San Antonio suburb.

"We have every bit of confidence that our leadership is going to take care of the situation," Menn said.

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Task force chief says flying safe

Dewhurst visits National Guardsmen during airport tour

BY BOB RICHTER

EXPRESS-NEWS AUSTIN BUREAU

AUSTIN — In a visit clearly aimed to boost air travel in the wake of the Sept. 11 terror attacks on the East Coast, the state's director of homeland security visited National Guard



DEWHURST

troops on an airport security detail Monday and declared flying is safer than ever. "The last thing we should do is let the terrorists win by default. Flying commercial has never been safer," Land Commissioner David Dewhurst said. "We've got to get on with our lives."

Since the attacks, air travel has decreased, and along with it the value of airline stocks.

Three major airlines — American, Southwest and Continental — are headquartered in Texas.

The National Guardsmen were deployed at 26 Texas airports over the weekend, and were on heightened se-

"The last thing we should do is let the terrorists win by default. Flying commercial has never been safer."

DAVID DEWHURST

Texas' director of homeland security

curity Monday following reprisal attacks Sunday and Monday against the Taliban government by U.S.-led military forces.

Named last week by Gov. Rick Perry to head the state's Task Force on Homeland Security, Dewhurst said he will assemble his 18-member task force for its first meeting Thursday morning in Austin.

Dewhurst said he hopes to consolidate some of the information gathered by guardsmen at the airport sites in making security recommendations to the governor.

Dewhurst toured the Austin-Bergstrom terminal with Maj. Gen. Daniel

James, the adjutant general of Texas who was appointed by President Bush to head the Air National Guard.

Noting that the 19 men who carried out the Sept. 11 attacks were armed when they boarded airliners, James said the guardsmen are on hand to provide "another set of eyes and ears" to civilian airport security personnel and local police.

"Hopefully," he said, "we'll increase the comfort level and the confidence of the American public."

Asked whether the presence of armed troops in airports might instead heighten insecurity among travelers, James and Dewhurst said that was not the indication they got from their visit with troops and travelers at Austin-Bergstrom.

"You have to realize that normalcy changed on Sept. 11," James said. "So we'll never get back to the state of comfort we had back then. We're changed forever as a people. We're changed forever as a nation."

"So that's our new normalcy."

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Express-News: America Targets Terrorism

Anxiety up in city, but fear subdued

By Jeanne Russell and Bill Hendricks

San Antonio Express-News

Web Posted : 10/09/2001 12:00 AM

The news of U.S.-led airstrikes came to Rudy Canales via a pager he clips to his belt. The 20-year-old Radio Shack salesperson described himself as "not nervous. But I'm aware."

Like many San Antonio residents, he carefully chose words to describe a low-level anxiety felt here since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the United States.

Across the city, people expressed a wide range of support for President Bush's decision to launch air strikes, and praised the 26-day buildup to the action as appropriately cautious.

But some also voiced concerns or caveats not captured in the instant national polls indicating massive support for the strikes.

Store clerks, business people and students voiced well-informed opinions about Middle East politics and Islam, many saying that they had studied the issues in recent weeks.

The city distributed 50,000 copies of an "emergency safety plan" to all fire stations, police substations and libraries Monday morning, said Carl Wedge, chief of special projects for the San Antonio Fire Department, which runs the city's Emergency Management Office.

People were buying assault rifles, shotguns and gas masks, said Jerry McCall, owner of Texas Guns. Many of his new customers were women.

"I think they have a right to be concerned," McCall said. "When have you ever before heard that the FBI is requesting that police be especially watchful because terrorists may strike again?"

After Sept. 11, requests for applications to get a state concealed- weapon permit more than doubled, going from 865 requests the week prior to Sept. 11, and 1,096 the week of the attack, to 1,627 the next week, 2,111 the following week, and 2,044 last week.

Ken Lee, 51, a former Air Force pilot and Desert Storm veteran,

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wholeheartedly supported the military strikes.

"I kind of think we're going to wreak havoc on Afghanistan and get what we want," he said.

But Lee said the impact will likely be for the short term, adding, "I don't think we're going to get rid of terrorism."

Lee's daughter's fiancé, based at Randolph AFB, said he wasn't scared about being sent to war.

"That's what we prepare for," said Adam Fraser, 23.

The national show of patriotism and support was "almost like a face for a game," said St. Mary's University student Nicole Moore, suggesting the country needed to present a unified front, at least on the surface.

Trinity University student organizers turned a planned protest into an "educational rally," after deciding that the U.S. response stopped short of a bloodbath and was something more complex, said Marcus Denton, a sociology major and president of the newly formed Trinity Coalition for Peace and Justice.

The rally, scheduled for Wednesday at 7 p.m., will highlight the role that could be played by the United Nations and international courts, he said.

Police responded to a spate of calls from people reporting their suspicions, from customers in coin laundries to people who wondered whether a rental van parked near a downtown church posed a danger.

The police bomb squad responded with other officers when a suspicious package turned up on the sidewalk in front of a hardware store near Fiesta Plaza.

But after closing the front doors at the city's six police substations on Sunday for security reasons, police reopened them Monday, Sgt. Gabriel Trevino said.

And while Bexar County sheriff's officials have stepped up patrols around some county and military facilities, no extra deputies are on the streets, officials said.

Brooks, Randolph and Lackland AFBs upgraded security status on Sunday from Force Protection Bravo to Force Protection Charlie, the second-highest of four security levels. Fort Sam Houston remained under Threatcon Charlie, the Army's second-highest state of alert.

All four installations were placed on the highest level of alert, Delta, in the hours following the Sept. 11 attacks, then downgraded to Charlie the next day. The three Air Force bases downgraded to Bravo about two weeks ago.

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San Antonio talk show radio host Jack Riccardi took up the question of whether San Antonio was a likely terrorist target.

Time line of attacks

Attack discussion

But his callers, and people in San Antonio malls and shops, appeared more worried about the long-term implications of war than about chemical or biological attacks in this city of about 1.3 million.

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Staff Writers Karisa King, Cindy Tumiel, Scott Huddleston and William M. Pack contributed to this report.

10/09/2001

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Congress rallies behind Bush, military actions

President asks for patience

By GARY MARTIN

EXPRESS-NEWS WASHINGTON BUREAU

WASHINGTON — Congressional leaders closed ranks behind President Bush on Sunday when the first volley of U.S. and British missiles hit Afghanistan targets and Americans were urged to be patient with a lengthy military campaign against terrorism.

"In the months ahead, our patience will be one of our strengths," Bush said during a seven-minute televised statement that interrupted National Football League coverage.

The president warned that the threat of other terrorist attacks would require personal sacrifice and patience for tighter security measures.

A drawn out military mission against terrorists, Bush said, would require "patience and understanding that it will take time to achieve our goals; patience in all the sacrifices that may come."

Democratic and Republican leaders in the Senate and House immediately issued a joint statement backing Bush after U.S. cruise missiles were launched against Osama bin Laden and the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan.

"We strongly support the operation President Bush ordered our military forces to carry out today," said the statement signed by Senate Majority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., Senate Minority Leader Trent, R-Miss., House



JOCKEL FINCK/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unidentified Navy personnel sit on an F-14 Tomcat as it is serviced on the flight deck of the USS Enterprise in the northern Indian Ocean on Sunday.

Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., and House Democratic Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo.

A resolution approving the use of military force against terrorist networks was approved 420-1 by the House on Sept. 14, just three days after the choreographed carnage that felled the World Trade Center twin towers and left a gaping hole in the Pentagon.

The Senate passed the resolution by a unanimous vote.

As that military action began Sunday, congressional leaders said the nation is resolute and confident that the U.S.-led effort, dubbed Operation Enduring Freedom, will prevail.

"America stands united behind our men and women in the

military, who are putting themselves in harm's way," said Sen. Joe Biden, D-Del., the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "I join all Americans in supporting President Bush."

Just hours after the president spoke to the nation, television networks aired chilling footage of bin Laden, threatening America's security.

"Osama bin Laden's hateful words are a vivid reminder of the importance of this mission and the necessity of its success," said Rep. Martin Frost, D-Dallas, chairman of the House Democratic Caucus.

Most lawmakers were traveling or at home for the weekend when the American bombing be-

gan, just four weeks after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington that killed more than 5,000 people.

In New York, where last month's terrorist attacks took their largest toll, reaction was swift.

Rep. John Sweeney, R-N.Y., said the U.S. reprisal would "put a stake through the heart of the despicable forces responsible for those attacks."

Bush administration officials briefed the Senate Intelligence Committee on developments in the campaign against terrorism last week.

Lawmakers on that panel were prepared for an imminent strike against "hard targets" within Afghanistan, a congress-



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Congress rallied... cont'd

"We strongly support the operation President Bush ordered our military forces to carry out today."

STATEMENT FROM CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS

sional aide said.

Sen. Jon Kyl, R-Ariz., the ranking Republican on the Senate Intelligence subcommittee on terrorism, said the goals of the military effort were clear: to wrest the Afghan people from the oppressive Taliban regime "and to bring to justice those who took the lives of thousands of our fellow citizens."

A strong offensive to knock out and disrupt communications and training efforts by bin Laden, his al-Qaida network and the ruling Taliban is the best strategy to prevent other terrorist attacks, said Sen. George Allen, R-Va., who sits on the foreign relations panel.

Rank and file members of Congress were not notified in advance about the military strike. Many learned about the unfolding events from television, other news sources, and the Internet.

"There has been an understanding for the last four days that things were about to happen, so I'm sure no one was surprised," said Republican Rep. Henry Bonilla, who was at his San Antonio home working on his computer when urgent notices popped up on Web sites.

Rep. Lamar Smith, another San Antonio Republican, was flying to his Virginia home from San Angelo when U.S. and Brit-

ish forces fired 50 Tomahawk cruise missiles into Afghanistan, striking airports, air bases and terrorist camps.

Smith said a National Guardsman armed with an automatic weapon and conducting security checks at San Angelo's Mathis Field was a sign of changing times and extra efforts that Americans must endure for safety.

Bush has called up 35,000 military reservists and guardsmen for homeland security.

Governors have called on guardsmen to conduct tightened security sweeps at the nation's airports.

Military action on targets in Afghanistan "will let the American people know that we are taking actions," Smith said. "It may be a time of uncertainty and a time of stress, but the end result will be to reduce America's vulnerability to terrorism."

Lawmakers return to Capitol Hill on Tuesday, following the Columbus Day holiday.

Frost said the president has set forth clear and specific objectives for the military action that "will receive strong bipartisan support in Congress."

Rep. Charlie Gonzalez, D-San Antonio, said many House members, like himself, would be eager to learn of the successes of the weekend military action, and learn of long-range goals in a battle that is expected to last months and possibly years.

"It is important that we do not speculate or second guess," Gonzalez said.

"We must remain calm. Of course we are united, but we need to see how things play out and see what our long-range goals will be."

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S.A. activates emergency center

Police, fire, health officials cooperate

BY KARISA KING
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Moving to gird against retaliation for the strikes in Afghanistan, city officials Sunday activated the downtown Emergency Operations Center and issued a safety plan with tips on how to cope in a crisis.

"We'd like for citizens to know that everything is under control," City Manager Terry Brechtel said. "We really did it as a precautionary measure and as a way to open communications. So we're in ready mode."

A sparse gathering of city fire, police and health officials was on hand at the operations center, in the basement of the Fire Department headquarters on Auditorium Circle, where officials said they were in tighter contact with state and federal law agencies as well as the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

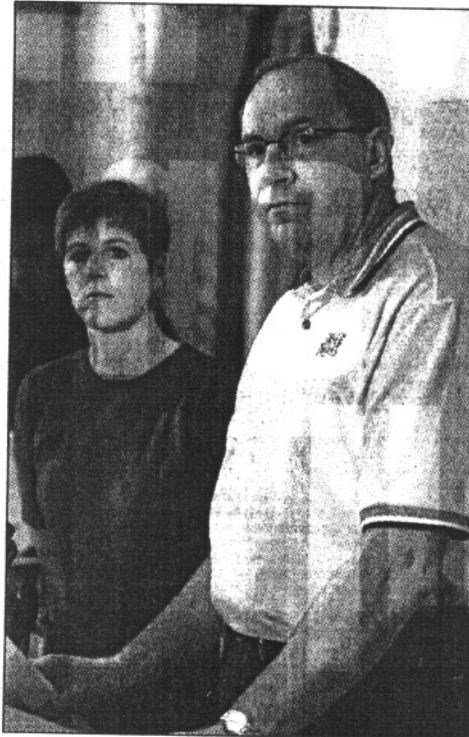
"We're really just monitoring things," Fire Department spokesman Tommy Thompson said. "The phone's not even ringing downstairs."

Despite lack of any specific threat here, police closed the perimeter of their downtown headquarters, allowing only one entrance and prohibiting parking in front of the station, Police Chief Al Philippus said.

Police also shut the front doors to the city's six substations, requiring residents to summon officers inside on a speakerphone.

But Philippus stressed that those measures are part of standard precautions.

"We have no specific identifiable threat that's been conveyed to us or any other law enforcement agency that would indicate



KEVIN GEIL/STAFF

Police Chief Al Philippus and City Manager Terry Bechtel talk to the media Sunday.

San Antonio as a target," Philippus said.

While the FBI issued a national advisory Sunday urging local law enforcement agencies to be "at the highest level of vigilance," Philippus said there is no nationwide standard for police departments meeting that call.

Police here notched up security Friday following statements from federal officials who predicted a "100 percent" chance of renewed terrorist attacks regardless of U.S. military action.

"In light of that, we take nothing for granted," Philippus said.

"We've already had measures in place at the highest level that we actually can."

AL PHILIPPUS
police chief

"We've already had measures in place at the highest level that we actually can, short of bringing in additional people back on duty," he said.

Bexar County Sheriff's Department officials also placed patrol officers on high alert Sunday morning, requiring all personnel to remain in the near area and stepping up patrols around the county courthouse and records-keeping facilities, Deputy Chief Bud Baker said.

At San Antonio International Airport, no tighter safeguards were in place Sunday beyond what officials had previously installed in response to the Sept. 11 attacks, airport spokeswoman Lisa Burkhardt-Worley said.

Since Friday, National Guard troops have held a constant uniformed presence at the airport.

"We're pretty well protected now," she said. "We were already at a heightened security level."

City officials also issued an emergency safety plan, which reads like a practical tip sheet, advising residents on how to guard against disaster.

The plan, which will be available today at libraries, police substations and fire stations, asks residents to be more alert to their surroundings, such as knowing where emergency exits are located.

It also offers instructions on how to seal a home from contaminants using wet towels and duct tape.

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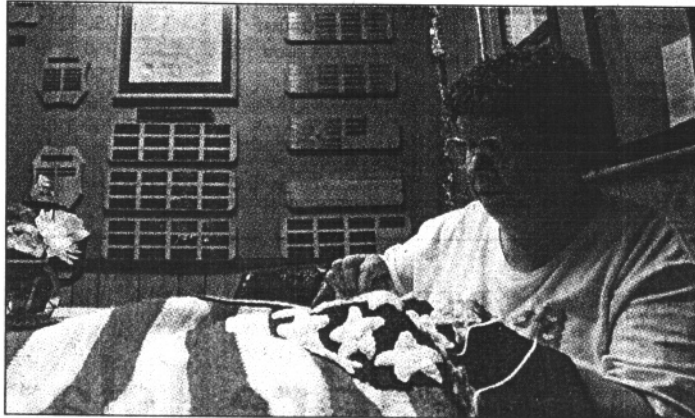
S.A. reacts soberly to news of strikes

Residents worry about retaliation, loss of innocent lives abroad.

By ZEKE MACCORMACK
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

America had no choice but to attack Afghanistan for the Sept. 11 terrorist assaults, some local people said Sunday, but that assessment couldn't quash the foreboding feelings when U.S. bombs finally fell on Taliban targets.

Some said they feared for their own safety, others worried about U.S. troops battling on foreign soil, and a few said they were concerned about Afghan innocents in harm's way.



JERRY LARA/STAFF

Rosa Garcia, 66, crochets an American flag Sunday at VFW Post 1533 in San Antonio. Garcia was a child in Germany during World War II.

But uncertainty over where the conflict is headed was the clearest cause of anxiety.

"It's kind of scary. You don't know what's going to happen next," said Travis Prather, 29, of Castroville, as he shopped at a pawn shop on West Military

Drive.

Nearby at Barton's Boozery, Air Force retiree Robert Wallace, 57, wasn't upbeat about "the war against fanaticism."

"We had our Vietnam," said Wallace from a smoky corner stool. "The Russians had theirs. It was called Afghanistan. Why doesn't this make sense?"

Waiting for a bus outside Lackland AFB, enlistee Matt Huard, 22, reported no cheering in his dorm when word arrived that America had struck.

"Nobody wants to kill people. They just want justice," said Huard, a Minnesota native.

While many craved retaliation, questions of conscience persisted about whether smart bombs can hit only those for

See FEELINGS/3B

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Feelings of fear, support in S.A.

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whom they are intended.

"Just because they attacked innocent people here doesn't mean we have the right to do it there," said Vianney Saenz, 21, while lunching at El Molino Luz Verde on Potranco Road. "We don't want any war."

When Juliana Cardenas heard of the attacks Sunday, she thought of news predictions that such a strike will likely provoke more terrorism here.

"My heart sank. It's scary," said Cardenas, 37. "Knowing we have four bases (in San Antonio), I would think we'd be a primary target."

As security increased at military bases, some civilians said they would be more vigilant in protecting themselves.

"I'm worried for my personal safety," said Bruce Hodge, 36, a printer. "We've been infiltrated. They still have people here. Bombs and chemical warfare are what I'm worried about."

Few expressed surprise that the long-awaited offensive had begun, and the only criticism heard Sunday concerned the timing of the attacks.

A collective groan was heard from hundreds of ardent football fans at Fatso's Sports Garden as news anchors appeared for special reports just before noon kickoffs.

"I thought they were going to cancel the games. That's what I



DELICIA LOPEZ/STAFF

Robert Melgosa stands guard Sunday at the main gate of Lackland AFB after the U.S.-led military strike on Afghanistan brought heightened security to all San Antonio bases.

"We should've been bombing them since Sept. 12."

RENARD MACK
Air Force veteran

was worried about," said Chicago native Andy Pfaffinger, 32, sporting a Bears jersey. "It's kind of a strange time to attack them. Sunday?"

They listened attentively to President Bush, then cheered the resumption of NFL action.

The only complaint from Renard Mack, a former Air Force combat engineer, was that Bush took too long to act.

"We should've been bombing them since Sept. 12," said Mack, 47.

Football took a back seat to CNN at VFW Post 1533 on Elmhurst Drive, where Post Com-

mander Bob Hamilton solidly supported the attack.

"If I wasn't as old as I am, 73, I'd be ready to go back," said Hamilton, who retired from the Air Force in 1972.

Wayne Osburn, an Army veteran of the Vietnam War, said from his seat at the bar that the Taliban left Bush "no choice" but to unleash the United States' military might.

Far in the back of the cozy VFW bar, a veteran of another war, Rosa Garcia, showed little interest in the news reports as she crocheted a quilt of an American flag.

"I saw dead people on the ground in World War II when I was 11," said Garcia, referring to her childhood in Würzburg, Germany. "I don't want any more to do with war."

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AF delays launch of recruiting ads

TV campaign now set for Nov. 5

BY SIG CHRISTENSON
EXPRESS-NEWS MILITARY WRITER

Concerned that Americans are too preoccupied with the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center, the Air Force has put its fall television ad campaign on hold.

The media drive, which was to have begun last Monday, instead will be launched Nov. 5.

A popular spot used as part of the Air Force's new ad campaign last year, "People," will air through most of this month.

"We felt the timing was bad to roll out a new campaign that focused on recruiting," Brig. Gen. Ron Rand, the Air Force's chief spokesman, said Friday.

"What we wanted to do was reassure them that the Air Force is there, is strong, is committed, is part of the fabric of America, and so we wanted to do something that was more patriotic and more somber, more reflective of the tough time we had just gone through."

The "People" spot, a 30-second tribute to airmen, aired last year as part of a \$54 million media campaign designed to boost interest in the Air Force.

The ad splices shots of mechanics and pararescuers with images of an AC-130 gunship, weapons ablaze, but will have no narration in its new form. A soundtrack will accompany the images until the spot ends, the words "Freedom Forever" appearing on the screen.

It was one of several ads created after the Air Force launched its first-ever paid television campaign in 1999. That effort, which cost \$74 million in its first year, helped propel a turnaround in recruiting.

After falling short of its recruiting goal two years ago, the Air Force exceeded its quota last month, signing up 35,381 enlistees.

The goal was 34,600, said Senior Master Sgt. Tom Clements, a spokesman with the Air Force Recruiting Service at Randolph AFB. Rand said surveys showed the spots have consistently increased awareness of the Air Force among its target audiences, but noted that a boost in the number of recruiters, among other things, also has helped.

Air Force target groups include 16 to 24-year-olds, first- and second-term airmen and company-grade officers, and 25- to 49-year-old "influencers" — teachers, guidance counselors, parents and extended family considered most likely to motivate a youngster to join up.

Plagued by recruiting problems in recent years, the Army revealed a week before the attacks that it, too, had made its goal. Army Secretary Thomas E. White introduced his service's 75,800th enlistee, Karnes City High School graduate Rodrigo "Ringo" Vasquez III, during a Pentagon news conference.

Ad blitzes have been a staple of Army and Air Force efforts to reverse their recruiting fortunes. The Air Force last week was poised to launch a new, \$30 million ad campaign on ABC's "Monday Night Football" game, but backed off after the attacks, said Donald Carpenter, a civilian spokesman in the Pentagon.

Americans "are on so much information overload right now, it doesn't make sense to introduce a new idea," he explained.

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DATE 8 Oct 01

Families brace for deployment

BY ANALISA NAZARENO

EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

Cindy Mendoza hears that 30,000 uniformed personnel have been deployed overseas and that the United States is engaged in a delicate dance with allies for potential strikes in Afghanistan.

And she wonders — how long before her husband goes to war to retaliate for Sept. 11?

"I know I have to face the very real possibility that he has to go some day," Mendoza said. "I have to wonder whether when that day comes, if that's the last time I will see him. And that may be reaching right now, but the idea of not knowing how long he might be gone, that's real scary."

Mendoza's husband, James, is an Army Reserve first lieutenant. His duties are to move heavy ground equipment. And every day since the attacks, the couple have talked about deployment as a certainty and what that could mean.

"It makes it easier to assume I'm going and to prepare, rather than to sit there and wonder," said James Mendoza, a San Antonio police crisis-response team case manager.

While the rest of the nation remotely discusses war and its implications, military families — both full-time active-duty members and reservists — are preparing wills, making copies of house and car keys and taking care of the practical matters of deployment.

They're also preparing themselves mentally and emotionally for the idea of separation.

"Nobody likes the consequences of leaving their family and going to a foreign country," said Air Force Technical Sgt.

Dave Edwards, who returned to San Antonio last week after one year of being stationed in Korea. "I'm concerned about the possibility that I could be deployed again for this (war on terrorism). But, I put on my uniform and it's what I get paid to do. It's something I'm proud to do."

When his wife, Debbie, learned about the length of his deployment last year, she said she went through a range of emotions: "From disbelief, to anger, to worry and stress, and then you struggle through it."

After 15 years of marriage to a soldier, Debbie Edwards, who was raised in a military family, knew deployment was possible. But she didn't expect it to happen, since his duties as a human resources officer kept him in the United States most of his career.

She's hoping his service in Korea and his non-combat role will keep him at home now, but she doesn't count on it.

"This is the military, not IBM, Chase Manhattan, or General Motors. This is Uncle Sam," said Master Sgt. Melvin Gilchrist, the family readiness coordinator at Brooks AFB. "There are commitments when you join the military and put on the uniform. And anyone who wears the uniform knows they are deployable."

Gilchrist said he makes sure families are prepared when their loved ones are called up.

Among the items on the family readiness checklist: emergency contact phone numbers, updated medical and auto insurance, a means to pay bills and care for the home, a financial plan, a will.

"The list is there as a starting point, to get conversations



WILLIAM LUTHER/STAFF

Air Force Technical Sgt. Dave Edwards (center), returning from overseas, hugs his daughter, Katie (right), and his wife, Debbie.

started so that if there are unique situations, the family has developed their own plan," Gilchrist said.

At the Family Support Center at Brooks AFB, Edwards said she and her daughter, Katie, were able to use the video conference room to talk to Dave in Korea.

They took advantage of the military's e-mail services.

Whether troops stationed overseas for the war on terrorism will enjoy all these privileges, family readiness coordinators said, depends on the nature of the mission. If the operations are more sensitive or covert, access to phone lines overseas gets scaled back.

In these cases, they said, making sure that family members at home base have a support group — whether a network of family members and friends or a formal group set up through the mili-

tary — is crucial.

"It's important to have the support there," said Elizabeth McKinley, who heads the Family Support Center at Randolph AFB. "Our families are very strong and, lots of times, they have their own support system set up. In previous times, people were disconnected and didn't have a support network to fall back on."

During the 1991 Gulf War, stories emerged of wives left behind without house or car keys, some left helpless because of language barriers, and others unable to buy groceries or access health care because their husbands left with the bank and insurance cards.

After the war ended, in response to the concerns, the Defense Department required military bases to establish support networks for families and to make family preparation an item



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Families ... cont'd

on the checklist for deployment readiness for both full-time and reserve members.

"My job is to keep the troop focused on what he's doing when he's down-range," said Technical Sgt. Todd Remington, who is stationed at Randolph AFB and serves as the family readiness coordinator.

"When the family is stressed out, the military member is stressed out," Remington said. "And that's a lose-lose situation."

At Fort Sam Houston, the medical community there established committees of active-duty members and spouses who are assigned the tasks of supporting families during times of crisis, as well as peacetime.

The group is considering holding special classes for children on terrorism.

"My kids have lots of questions and I've got to answer them," 1st Sgt. Julian Romero said. "What is a terrorist? What do they do? Why do they do the things they do? Kids want to know this stuff. I know mine do."

The doctors, medical technicians, nurses and other medical support personnel at Fort Sam stand a good chance of deployment, though as individuals or in small teams, said Babs Kiley, who's active in the family readiness groups there. Her husband is Major Gen. Kevin Kiley, a doctor at the base.

Because whole units don't deploy at the same time, spouses, whose family networks are likely to be in another state, are more likely to feel isolated if they don't connect with the readiness coordinators or other military families.

The families of full-time, ac-

tive-duty military members can draw from their experience and the military culture to emotionally deal with the possibility of deployment, Kiley said.

An ability to separate military activities from day-to-day family conversations is one way to maintain calm before and during deployments, said Lance Howlett, whose wife, Tech. Sgt. Patricia Howlett, is a medical technician stationed in Korea.

Examples: Talk about how tall the children are, their grades in school, their daily chores.

"The biggest thing is communication," said Howlett, who's retired from the Air Force. "Set your routines ahead of time, from simple things like buying groceries to what to do in a medical emergency to what to cook the kids. Try to stay as normal as possible."

And while communication is important, he said, be prepared for the possibility that the military member will not be able to talk about current events or military developments.

"For family members who haven't been involved for a very long time with the military, they may not understand why their spouse is being evasive," Howlett said. "It's not that they don't want to talk about what's going on. It's just that they can't."

Howlett takes advantage of services at Randolph, he said. His wife is expected to return in April.

"In a way, we're lucky," Howlett said. "Because I know where she is. I know what the risks are in Korea. With this (al-Qaida terrorist network), we don't know what we're dealing with."

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S.A. agency is hub for new battle

Air Force's spy data come together here

By SIG CHRISTENSON

EXPRESS-NEWS MILITARY WRITER

Just up the hill on busy Military Drive, south of U.S. 90, is an nondescript beige building surrounded by a razor-wire fence.

Motorists may pay little notice as they pass the Air Intelligence Agency on "Security Hill," but the work done there may be cause for concern for terrorists and foreign enemies far from San Antonio.

The agency is the nerve center of Air Force intelligence. Its deceptively simple task: to study data culled from friends and foes and feed it to pilots and commanders.

Backed by a staff of 13,000 worldwide, the agency has been around in some form since its creation as the Air Force Security Service in 1948. It's been in San Antonio since April 1949, has a work force of 3,000 here, and pumps \$375 million each year into the San Antonio economy.

Despite its impact, only a select few know much about the AIA, and they're not talking.

"They get a variety of what I would call raw intelligence, and one of their missions is to analyze that intelligence," said former Air Force Secretary F. Whitten Peters, the service's top civilian until this year. "That's why they call it an intelligence agency."

Peters laughed as he recognized the evasiveness of his answer, but secrecy isn't a joking matter at the agency. Air-

men in camouflage uniforms and black combat boots patrol AIA's corridors with loaded M-16 rifles slung over their shoulders. Programmers monitoring computers for hackers whisper when civilians sit near their cubicles.

While cooperative in the past, giving a daylong tour to a San Antonio Express-News reporter last November, the agency would not comment or grant access for this story.

Each service has intelligence units and all feed into the Defense Intelligence Agency, the umbrella arm of tactical intelligence and weapons systems threat assessments for the Pentagon, said Ivan Eland, director of defense policy studies at the Cato Institute. The DIA and the services focus strictly on military intelligence, such as a nation's armed services capacity and its weapons systems, he added.

The Central Intelligence Agency, in turn, specializes more in "national" intelligence, which includes information on political activities, unrest, terrorists and other such issues.

The Defense Intelligence Agency collates and studies information gathered by AIA and other service agencies. DIA attachés in embassies around the world monitor and report on foreign military activities.

Though CIA agents work on Security Hill, most of the tactical intelligence used by the services comes from agencies like AIA. Data received here from satellites and spy planes are fed to fighter and bomber pilots. Air Force computers



PETERS

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Air Force intelligence is close at hand

CONTINUED FROM 1B

are monitored for hackers, enemy radar systems disrupted, and psychological operations run to deceive and confuse opponents.

The Air Intelligence Agency is deeply involved in ensuring secure communications for the Air Force, a critical function in war and peace. A cadre of about 1,500 agency linguists eavesdrop on other countries' communications from RC-135 reconnaissance aircraft and multiple ground sites worldwide.

One room, dotted by banks of computers, is dedicated to monitoring all Air Force computer systems, with specialists there able to determine the origin of the hackers and even strike back. Air Force programmers, if directed by President Bush or Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, could develop "dummy" computers to lure hackers, observe their tactics and implant homing devices into their systems.

"It's the old bait and switch," one agency observer said, comparing the ploy to a scene from the movie "Blazing Saddles," in which the villains are tricked into attacking a fake town.

The marriage of time-honored military tactics and high-tech capability has put the agency on the Air Force's front lines. On Feb. 1 it became part of the Air Combat Command.

Gen. John P. Jumper, head of the ACC in February, said the agency could "take out and destroy targets or disable targets doing things besides blowing them up." Now the Air Force's top commander, he didn't elaborate.

"They get a variety of what I would call raw intelligence, and one of their missions is to analyze that intelligence."

F. WHITTEN PETERS
former Secretary of the Air Force

But the question of whether AIA has hacked into the computers of terrorists or other countries is a closely held secret not even discussed with key lawmakers on Capitol Hill.

Pentagon officials say little about the subject because attacking a nation's computer networks could be construed as an act of war. One Capitol Hill expert familiar with the issue, however, said "the capability is there and it would be my strong guess that it's been utilized."

A veteran intelligence expert, however, cast doubt on that, saying, "I've been in this business since '85 and I wish we could."

AIA does hack into Defense Department computers. Groups of specialists, dubbed "Red Teams," originally formed here, also invade Defense Department computers to determine the systems' strengths and vulnerabili-

ties. Peters said those actions, sanctioned by the National Security Act, are done "frequently" when authorized by the secretary of defense.

When asked if Red Teams or units like them hack into other countries' systems, Peters replied, "That I cannot talk about. You have to use your own imagination."

The agency also uses a host of aircraft to get its job done. Specialists fly on EC-130 electronic warfare planes, AWACS airborne command-and-control aircraft, RC-135s and manned U-2s.

The relatively new 42-foot-long Global Hawk, an unmanned U-2 that can fly at 65,000 feet for as long as 40 hours, now is being tested and is expected to be operational within the next year.

Global Hawk holds 2,000 pounds of electronic equipment — including radar — that is used to gather information and transmit it to ground commanders, who then relay it to pilots.

The Air Force ultimately wants to send that information directly to ground attack fighters and other planes.

A military source didn't know when that might happen, but noted that a renewed emphasis on intelligence could hasten that day.

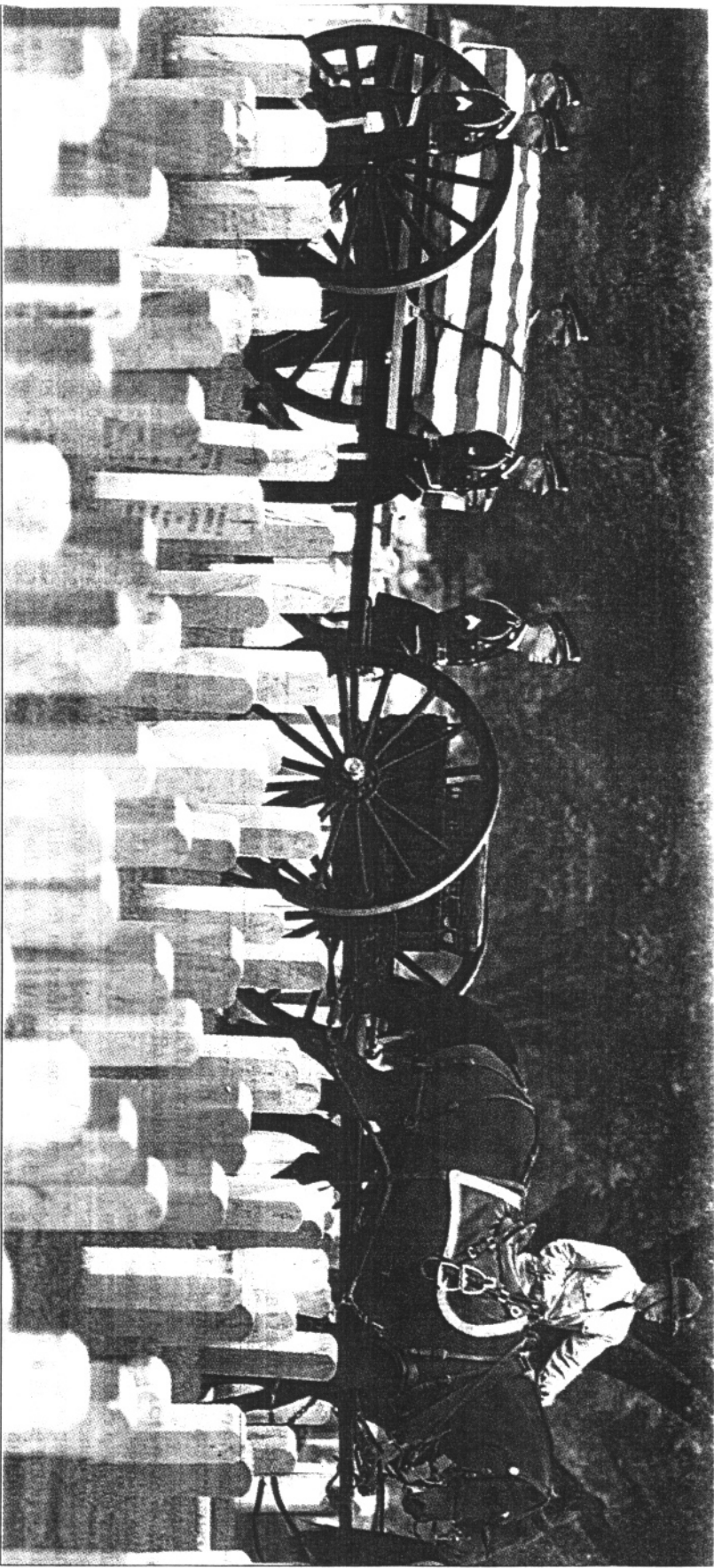
"That would be a very good thing if they could do it," Eland said. "If they can get data into the cockpit, the pilot can act on it."

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BOB OWEN/STAFF

The Fort Sill Field Artillery Half Section Caisson carries the casket of Lt. Col. Karen Wagner on Friday.

Final salute in S.A.

Family and friends say
goodbye to an officer who
died in the Pentagon crash.

By J. MICHAEL PARKER
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

She was a fourth-generation soldier, a woman as dedicated to the military as were her forefathers.

Friday, Lt. Col. Karen J. Wagner was laid to rest with hero's honors at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.



WAGNER

where her father, Army Staff Sgt. William E. Wagner, also is buried.

Karen Wagner, 40, died when a hijacked jet crashed into the Pentagon on Sept. 11.

She was posthumously awarded the Legion of Merit, the Purple Heart and the Order of Military Medical Merit.

Wagner worked as a medical personnel officer in the office of the Army Surgeon General, among other duties. Earlier Friday at Colonial Funeral

■ Caisson used at ceremony/8A

Home, relatives and friends sang "The Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Rather than eulogizing Wagner, Pastor Myrtle Jo Neely asked mourners to write their memories and present them to Wagner's family.

Family members, friends and Army comrades remembered Wagner as a dynamic, goal-driven officer who enjoyed serving her country, always put the good of others first and achieved distinction in everything she did.

Warren Wagner, speaking for the family, said his sister "never got the

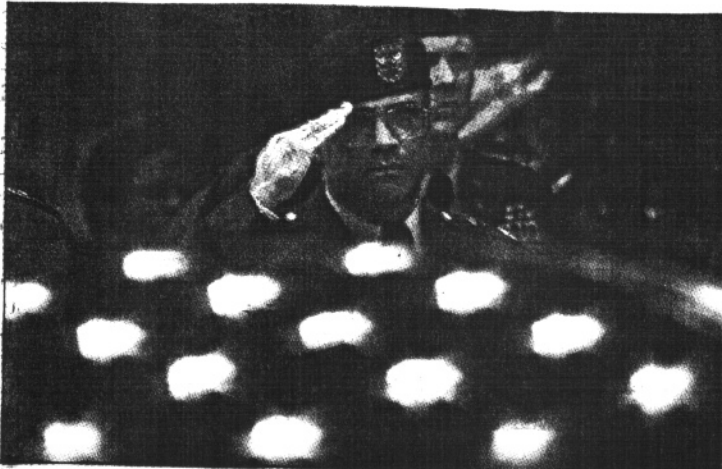
chance to face an enemy, but she died with her comrades at the Pentagon. She'll rest with the veterans who also gave their lives defending America."

She was especially proud of her recent assignment at the Pentagon, he said, but fondly remembered her two tours at Fort Sam Houston.

Wagner had been a staff officer in the Inspector General's Office of the U.S. Army Medical Command, and also served as executive officer and company commander of the 187th Medical Battalion.

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WILLIAM LUTHER/STAFF

A soldier salutes the casket of Lt. Col. Karen Wagner as it is removed from a caisson at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

Officer remembered for pride and honor

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Col. Brenda Forman called her friend's loss "very sad, a real tragedy."

Forman said she'll always remember Wagner's ready smile, but added: "Karen, she was a very powerful woman. When she spoke, people listened."

Michele Jue Ploch and Alma Villarreal Karkut recalled Wagner as the best player on their Judson High School basketball team, which won four consecutive district titles.

At the Judson-Clemens high school football game Friday night, the crowd recognized Wagner in pre-game ceremonies.

At the cemetery's main gate, the officer's flag-draped casket was transferred from a hearse to a horse-drawn military caisson brought in from Fort Sill, Okla.

Several hundred relatives and friends walked behind the caisson from the gate to a shelter near the rear of the cemetery.

The 323rd Army Band played "How Great Thou Art," "America the Beautiful" and Lee

Greenwood's "God Bless the U.S.A." A bugler sounded taps, and a firing team rendered volleys.

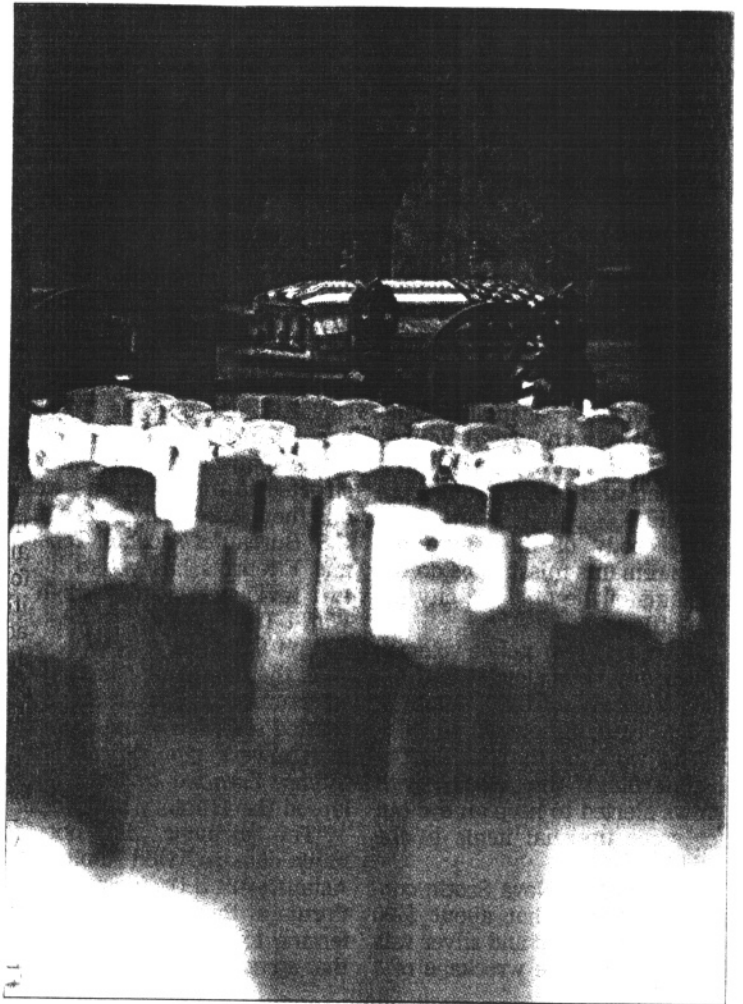
Wagner was buried next to her daughter, who died in 1984 at the age of 11 months.

The Legion of Merit citation cites Wagner for "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding service in various positions of great responsibility" from September 1992 until her death.

"She distinguished herself as an extraordinarily talented officer whose leadership, determination and technical competence resulted in invaluable contributions to the Army Medical Department," it reads.

The Purple Heart is awarded to all military personnel who are wounded or killed in action. The Order of Military Medical Merit cites Wagner's "exemplary contributions."

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Staff Writer Carmina Danini
and Photographer William
Luther contributed to this report.



WILLIAM LUTHER/STAFF

A military caisson carries the casket of Lt. Col. Karen Wagner to her final resting place at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

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Rare sight at Fort Sam

Caisson brought in for service

BY CARMINA DANINI
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITER

A horse-drawn caisson brought Lt. Col. Karen J. Wagner, the only Army officer from Texas killed in the attack on the Pentagon, to her final resting place Friday at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

While the Caisson Platoon of the 3rd U.S. Infantry, The Old Guard, from Fort Myer, Va., participates in every full-honor funeral at Arlington National Cemetery, such pomp is rare at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery.

A change may be in the offing, cemetery director Joe Ramos said.

Ramos said work is under way to develop caisson services for people with the rank of sergeant major and above.

"There's still a lot of work to be done but we would like to offer that kind of tribute," Ramos said. "It would be another way of paying everyone their due."

Wagner's funeral marked only the second time in almost a year in which a caisson was used at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery. On both occasions, it was Fort Sill's Field Artillery Half Section, the Army's last horse-drawn artillery unit, that participated in the solemn ceremony.

During rehearsals Thursday afternoon, the sight of three young soldiers sitting astride the horses pulling the caisson with a flag-draped casket drew the stares of visitors to the cemetery.

All six horses are saddled but mounted riders sit only on the horses on the left. That's because when horse-drawn artillery was in use in the early part of the 20th century, one horse of each team was mounted and the other carried provisions.

"They're awesome," said Pastor Myrtle Jo Neely of the Albright United Methodist Church and a friend of Wagner's family.

"They're awesome. I've watched caissons in funerals on television but I've never taken part in a funeral like this before. I'm very happy to take part."

MYRTLE JO NEELY
pastor, Albright United Methodist Church

"I've watched caissons in funerals on television but I've never taken part in a funeral like this before. I'm very happy to take part."

For one bystander, it brought back images of the caisson that carried the casket of President John F. Kennedy in November 1963 and of Black Jack, the caparisoned (riderless) horse wearing an empty saddle with the rider's boots reversed in the stirrups.

Tradition dictates a president or any officer with the rank of colonel or above in the Army and the Marine Corps is enti-

tled to a riderless horse.

Although a caparisoned horse was brought in from Fort Sill, it was not used because Wagner was a lieutenant colonel.

Fort Sill's mounted unit, symbolic of the horse-drawn artillery sections prevalent during World War I, was formed in 1963. It usually appears at shows, Cotton Bowl football games, rodeos and retirement ceremonies. It also performed at the inaugural parades of President George Bush in 1989 and President Richard M. Nixon in 1973.

"We seldom do funerals," said Staff Sgt. Mark Schuttler, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the unit.

Until mechanized artillery came along, the Army's field artillery sections consisted of a six-horse team that pulled a cannon and another six-horse team hitched to a caisson that carried ammunition.

A half section such as the Fort Sill unit is called includes only the gun team and a guidon bearer.

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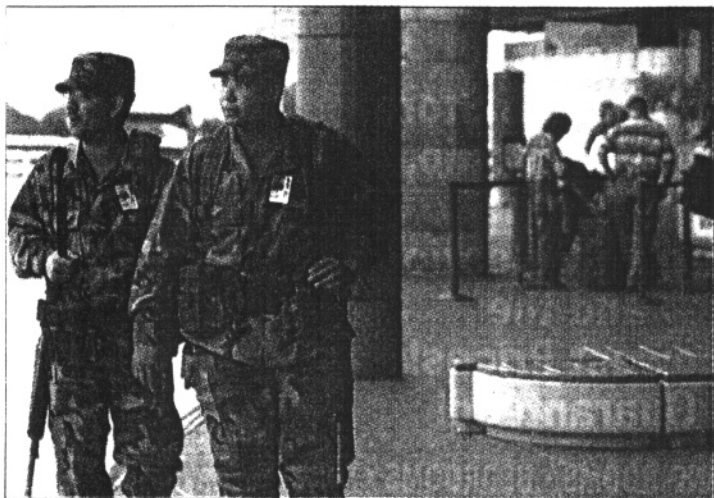


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Terminals take on different look with patrols



KIN MAN HUI/STAFF

Texas Army National Guardsmen patrol San Antonio International Airport for the first time Friday. Under orders from President Bush and Texas Gov. Rick Perry, military reservists were activated to offer additional security at the airport.

Friday marks first day
of soldiers in
America's airports.

BY SCOTT HUDDLESTON
AND SIG CHRISTENSON
EXPRESS-NEWS STAFF WRITERS

Soldiers armed with assault rifles patrolled the corridors of the San Antonio International Airport on Friday, a reminder of how American life has changed.

"It's a new world," Airport Police Chief Maurice Rose said after announcing the arrival of troops with the 49th Armored Division of the Texas Army National Guard, based in Camp Mabry in Austin.

The soldiers will be here for at

least six months.

The Guardsmen will monitor activity near and between the airport's two security checkpoints, freeing airport police to watch the airport's perimeter.

Rose said the soldiers continuously add at least six extra sets of eyes and ears to his force.

"Usually, airport security is transparent," he said. "Now, everyone can see it."

Off-the-cuff wisecracks about terrorism aren't acceptable, the airport police chief said.

"The airport isn't a good place for humor," Rose said.

Anyone cracking such a joke, he said, could get an unscheduled departure to jail for disorderly conduct.

More than 2,000 troops re-

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Airports take on different look with start of patrols

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ported at 200 U.S. airports Friday as part of President Bush's call to boost security, National Guard Bureau spokesman Charlie Price said. The number of troops soon will jump to more than 5,000 at 400 airports.

* Around 200 Guardsmen showed up at airports in San Antonio, Houston, Dallas and Austin. The Guard plans to have more than 400 soldiers at 26 Texas airports.

It's the first time in the FAA's history that Guardsmen have patrolled U.S. airports, an FAA spokesman said.

The Texas National Guard's top commander said the deployment "verifies the need for a force that's there in the community, that's well-trained, experienced and responsive."

For visitors at the San Antonio airport, the sight of M-16s seemed unusual in the city of Fiesta and

river parades.

"I think it's great to have them here. I'm sorry it's necessary," said a Kerrville woman traveling with her husband to Las Vegas. She didn't want her name published.

David Buntrock, a local sales representative waiting on a client arriving from Tulsa, Okla., said the Guardsmen are helping air travelers feel secure.

But eventually, he predicted, airports will use armed, plain-clothes personnel who are virtually impossible for terrorists to spot.

"I would prefer to have a more covert security situation," he said. "But I think it will come at a huge expense."

Mayor Ed Garza welcomed the Guard's presence and urged travelers to be patient.

Most of the 18 Guardsmen assigned to the airport live close enough to go home at night.

In the past, many have been

deployed for military operations, natural disasters or humanitarian missions, said 1st Sgt. Jeff Meurer, a San Angelo ceramic tile setter.

"They're soldiers. They go where they're told to go, do what they're told to do," he said.

Their M-16s and 9mm handguns are weapons they are certified to use in combat.

"I guess it is kind of tough to see that," Spc. John Martinez, a San Antonian, said in reference to the large, black M-16 rifles. But he and Meurer said air travelers have thanked the Guardsmen for their presence.

Rose advises travelers to get to the airport at least two hours before departure. Security personnel carefully checked all carry-on items Friday, including a little girl's stuffed animal that was run through an X-ray scanner.

"You're going to have to put your toy in here," a security officer told the girl, handing her a

plastic bin.

Guardsmen watched Friday over Laredo International Airport. Staff Sgt. Alfredo Medina, non-commissioned officer in charge of a statewide security task force, said the goal is to make travelers feel safe.

"Anything can happen anywhere, anytime. We know that now," Medina said.

However, he added that if international terrorists were to enter the country through the Laredo area, they more likely would come over land.

Despite its name, Laredo's airport has no international commercial flights.

The Laredo facility was quieter than normal Friday. A single soldier with an M-16 paced through the main corridor.

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Bonnie Pfister of the Express-News Border Bureau contributed to this report.



JOEL PAGE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

National Guard Staff Sgt. Peter Bellegarde patrols the terminal at the Portland International Jetport in Portland, Maine. The patrols started Friday.



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Vance getting security help

Vance Air Force Base is getting security help from Air Force reservists who recently have been activated.

A recent presidential order called thousands of reservists to active duty. Vance relief came with the deployment of the 71st Security Forces Squadron Aerospace Expeditionary Force. Five new reservists are assigned to Vance.

The reservists fill positions that individuals in a security

forces flight would normally fill, such as flight chief or patrolman.

"The reservists the 71st Security Forces received are fully capable of doing the same day-to-day operations that normal security forces do," said Chief Master Sgt. Keith Cobb, 71st Flying Training Wing command chief.

"Our plans are to continue normal operation and ensure all services are sustained during this important operation," Cobb said.

VANCE AFB OK

The Enid News & Eagle, October 5, 2001

Vance can help all reservists, families in need

By Robert Barron
Staff Writer

VANCE

Continued from Page A1

Susan Hornberger knows what it's like to sacrifice during wartime. And she is finding there is help.

Her husband, Dale, is a member of the Coast Guard Reserves and recently was called up to help protect America's shoreline after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, D.C.

"He left for active duty a year to the day after he was sworn in," she said.

Dale Hornberger is a trainer and was sent to New Orleans, but the

See VANCE, Page A3

suddenness of his activation left the family in shock.

"They called late Sunday, and he left the following Tuesday. We didn't know what to do, and I'm still trying to find out what to do," she said. "We were filling out his will and power of attorney in the bank parking lot the morning he left."

Susan must stay home and deal with raising two teenage children without her husband for 30 days to a year. The salary cut and loss of insurance are immediate issues, plus the separation from family. Their daughter is a senior in high school and doesn't know if her father will be able to attend her graduation.

"It was the suddenness that is causing the frustration," Susan said. "We spent Monday trying to process out and getting orders."

Because of the flurry of activity getting Dale ready to leave Tuesday, the family did not have time to accept the idea he was leaving.

Hornberger's company does not pay insurance benefits while he is on active duty, and the military won't pay benefits until he has been active for 30 days, she said.

"We don't know what to do, that is frustrating, plus the money issues," she said.

However, Family Support Services officials at Vance Air Force Base say there is help available as soon as military personnel are activated.

Slowly, Hornberger is finding assistance. The mortgage company has reduced their interest rate while Dale is on active duty, but representatives of the company told her they still are learning how to deal with the situation.

"It's the same for (Dale), too," she said. "He is separated from his family and has to worry about their support. I'm sure that's frustrating him. We've had lots of support from the community."

Dale knew he might have to serve when he joined the Coast Guard Reserves and is eager to serve, but the quickness of his leaving is causing concerns. Many people never thought such a situation would occur in America and are not prepared for it, and solutions are slow, she said.

"President Bush promised to protect the home front, and I'm sure that's why he was called. At least I can talk to him, and I'm sure there are many wives who can't talk to their husbands, who don't even know where they are. That time may come," she said.

Concerns like Hornberger's can be avoided with advance preparation, but many service personnel, especially guard and reserve members, do not know about it, said Master Sgt. Mike LaBounty of Vance's Family Support Services.

Coast Guard members are covered by Vance policies, even though they are listed under the Department of Transportation.

The primary job of Family Support Services is readiness, trying to get military, both active duty and reservists, prepared to deploy.

Vance Family Support Services helps with a variety of issues, including education, eldercare, employment for the remaining

spouse, family separation and readiness, LaBounty said.

Financial information and counseling are available, as are information resources, leisure activities, medical and dental care, base exchange and commissary privileges, parenting and a number of other programs.

Thirty-day orders must be issued to be eligible, but the 30-day period does not have to have expired before the services are given, said Sgt. Al Carter.

LaBounty urged military families to check with his office before deployment occurs to be ready.

"We serve all areas of the military, including Coast Guard. Every service has programs," he said.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is located in the Family Support Services area at Vance, and Red Cross representatives visit weekly.

LaBounty and Carter are among the family support group that travels to military installations in the Vance region giving readiness and benefit briefings.

Many of the benefits are needs-based and can provide temporary assistance to families.

Information is available at the Air Force official Web site www.crossroads.com.

Much of the assistance is defined in the Soldiers and Sailors Relief Act, which allows financial institutions to work with military families and dependents, and outlines other benefits of military dependents.

"It's a situation I never thought I would be in and it gives me sympathy for military wives, especially of active duty military, who go through it. It's eye-opening," Susan Hornberger said.

LaBounty said although he has not been any busier than usual since Sept. 11, there has been heightened interest.

"We help people through the transition," he said. "Guard and reserve members all have an ID card and can come to the base."

Maintaining military expertise

Bush order keeps Keesler personnel from retiring, leaving

By **RENI WINTER**
THE SUN HERALD

KEESLER AFB — After 22 years in the Air Force, Master Sgt. Brett Long looked forward to retirement.

His plans to start a civilian career this week, however, were brought to an abrupt halt when President Bush issued an order last week giving the military the power to stop people from getting out.

Long, 41, has been chief of consolidated dorm management at Keesler Air Force Base for the past four years. He is one of 141 full-time Air Force personnel at Keesler who have been ordered to stay in the Air Force while America wages war against terrorism.

The Air Force is the first of the five military services to use the "Stop Loss" order to keep key people. The order can be initiated only after war is declared or during a national

emergency.

Long isn't upset about the delay in his personal plans. He said he saw it coming.

"As soon as I heard on the news that the reserves had been called up, I knew 'Stop Loss' was next," Long said. "When I signed up 22 years ago, I raised my hand, and I'm here until they say I can go. I'd like to retire now, but I'm glad to be here and am proud to serve."

Long said he and his wife, Julie, a Coast native, were going to stay in Biloxi after his retirement, so their lives are not disrupted.

Others at Keesler might not be in such a comfortable position. People who would experience a severe hardship by staying in the military may file for a waiver of the order, said James Howell, Keesler's separation and retirement counselor.

"I haven't really had anyone come in upset about it," Howell said. "I

have had some requests for waivers, though. One guy already bought a new home — contracted to have a house built. If the waiver isn't granted, he's going to lose quite a bit of money. That's an extreme situation."

Howell said waivers are granted only for critical reasons, and most are determined on an individual basis. Women who are pregnant and within 60 days of their due date are allowed to leave the Air Force regardless of the "Stop Loss" order.

Keesler has 805 officers and 5,075 enlisted personnel. As of Wednesday, 100 of those affected by the "Stop Loss" order were scheduled to retire, and 41 were scheduled for separation after fulfilling their enlisted commitment.



Long



Howell

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